

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2000-0013-C - ORDER NO. 2000-0233
MARCH 7, 2000

IN RE: Proceeding to Address Performance Measures) ORDER GRANTING
and Third Party Testing of Operations) PETITION TO
Support Systems (OSS) of BellSouth) INTERVENE
Telecommunications, Inc.) OUT-OF-TIME

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") on the Petition to Intervene Out of Time filed in the instant docket by the Consumer Advocate for the State of South Carolina ("Consumer Advocate").

On January 26, 2000, the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") issued a Notice of Proceeding and Hearing in the instant docket. The Notice of Proceeding and Hearing gave notice of a generic proceeding established by the Commission to address inter-carrier quality of service measures, including performance measures, "performance guarantees," penalties, and liquidated damages provisions, related to competitive local exchange services offered within South Carolina. As part of the generic docket, the Commission also directed that Third Party Testing of Operations Support Systems ("OSS") of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. be addressed. The return date in the Notice of Proceeding and Hearing for comments or Petitions to Intervene concerning the generic docket was February 15, 2000.

On February 17, 2000, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene from the Consumer Advocate. The Consumer Advocate's Petition to Intervene was dated February 16, 2000. Upon notification that the Petition to Intervene was not timely filed, the Consumer Advocate filed a letter requesting that the Petition to Intervene be treated as a Petition to Intervene Out of Time. As his reason for filing the Petition to Intervene after the return date, the Consumer Advocate stated that he did not receive a copy of the Notice until one was requested on the previous Tuesday (February 15, 2000). The Consumer Advocate offered that granting his Petition to Intervene Out of Time would not prejudice any party.

Upon consideration of this matter, the Commission finds that the Consumer Advocate's Petition to Intervene Out of Time should be granted. The Commission finds that granting the petition will not prejudice any party.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

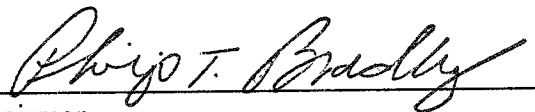
1. The Petition to Intervene Out of Time filed by the Consumer Advocate is granted.

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2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)